

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit that examination of Claims 1-7 of Group A, Species a (the optical pickup apparatus), along with elected Claims 8-14 of Group B, species a, would not impose a serious burden upon the Examiner. See M.P.E.P § 803.

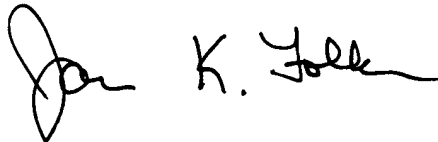
To the contrary, it appears as though no serious burden exists because the same, or a very similar, search is believed to be required for a proper examination of Claims 1-7 as that required for examination of elected Claims 8-14. The number of elements common to both sets of claims shows that this is the case. Basically, elected Claims 8-14 include essentially all of the features defined in Claims 1-7, plus additional features. Essentially, Claims 1-7 are directed to an optical pickup, whereas elected Claims 8-14 are directed to an optical storage device including the optical pickup of Claims 1-7, respectively. Both independent Claims 1 and 8 include the following common, or at least similar, elements: (1) a stem; (2) a substrate; (3) a laser diode; and (4) a photodetector, wherein the substrate is biased at a given voltage (or potential) and has an insulating member opposed to the stem. Similarly, dependent Claims 2-7 contain features that correspond to similar features of elected dependent Claims 9-14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that minimal, if any, additional searching is believed to be required if Claims 1-7 were to be examined along with elected Claims 8-14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a search of Claims 1-7 along with elected Claims 8-14 would most likely not pose a serious burden upon the Examiner.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be at least partially withdrawn, and that Claims 1-7 be examined with elected Claims 8-14.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions or to arrange for an interview in order to expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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